

Claims

1. A telephonic equipment compatible keypad for entering discrete alphanumeric data, the keypad comprising:

5 a housing containing a telephone set compatible array of manually operated actuators;  
the array having four rows of three manually operated actuators per each row; and  
each manually operated actuator being selectively operable to provide one  
10 of three discrete outcomes.

2. The keypad of claim 1, wherein the manually operated actuator comprises a push button assembly and a switch assembly.

15 3. The manually operated actuator of claim 2, wherein the switch assembly further comprises two switches, and the push button assembly is manually operable to selectively close either switch individually and both switches together to provide one of three discrete outcomes.

20 4. The manually operated actuator of claim 2, wherein the switch assembly further comprises three switches, and the push button assembly is manually operable to selectively close any one of the switches individually to provide one of three discrete outcomes.

25 5. The keypad of claim 1, further comprising a processor circuit in electrical communication with each manually operated actuator, the processor circuit operable to discern continuity in an electrical circuit of the manually operable actuators of the array.

6. The keypad of claim 5, wherein the processor circuit further comprises a discriminator circuit to detect an inappropriate switch operation.

7. The manually operated actuator of claim 3, further comprising a push 5 button assembly including a combination rocker and push button means manually operable to selectively close either switch individually and both switches together.

8. The push button assembly of claim 7, wherein the combination rocker and 10 push button means includes an upper surface that is a user interface, the user interface having a configuration selected from the group consisting of: the combination button with bossed ends, the combination button with wedge ends; the combination button with lever ends; the combination button with bossed center; the combination button with center lever; and the combination button with center recess.

15 9. The manually operated actuator of claim 4, further comprising a push button assembly including a push button means manually operable to selectively close any one of the switches individually.

20 10. The push button assembly of claim 2, wherein the push button means includes an upper surface that is a user interface, the user interface having a configuration selected from the group consisting of: a depressable triple boss cover, a combination rocker and push button, a rocker with center button, a combination slide and push button, and triple push button.

25 11. The manually operated activator of claim 2, wherein the switch assembly further comprises switches that are single pole, single throw momentary switches.

12. The manually operated activator of claim 2, wherein the switch assembly further comprises switches that are double pole, single throw momentary switches.

5 13. The keypad of claim 1, further comprising at least one manually operated actuator in addition to the manually operated actuators of the telephonic equipment compatible array.

10 14. The keypad of claim 1, wherein the manually operated actuator further comprises three selectively closeable electric circuit configurations.

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